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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

MOUNT PLEASANT,

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OF THE

FOURTH OF JULY

1876,

WITH ANNALS,

PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT OF CONGRESS AND THE PROCLAMATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT.

WASHINGTON:
O. H. REED, PRINTER.
1876.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas a joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States was duly approved on the 15th day of March last, which resolution is as follows:

"*Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.* That it be, and is hereby, recommended by the Senate and House of Representatives to the people of the several States that they assemble in their several counties or towns on the approaching centennial anniversary of our national independence, and that they cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said county or town from its formation, and that a copy of said sketch may be filed, in print or manuscript, in the Clerk's office of said county, and an additional copy, in print or manuscript, be filed in the office of the Librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first centennial of their existence."

And whereas it is deemed proper that such recommendation be brought to the notice and knowledge of the people of the United States:

Now, therefore, I, Ulysses S. Grant, President of the United States, do hereby declare and make known the same, in the hope that the object of such resolution may meet the approval of the people of the United States, and that proper steps may be taken to carry the same into effect.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington, the twenty-fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six, and of the independence of the United States the one hundredth.

SEAL.

U. S. GRANT.

By the President:

HAMILTON FISH,

Secretary of State.

In response to the foregoing proclamation a meeting of the citizens of Mount Pleasant was held on the 30th of May, and a committee appointed, consisting of Samuel G. Arnold, Henry C. Harmon, Benjamin P. Davis, Paris H. Folsom, and Lyman S. Emery, to make appropriate arrangements for the observance of the Fourth of July and commemorative of the Centennial anniversary.

The return of the day was publicly greeted at half-past six o'clock at the Village Hall by a meeting for prayer and thanksgiving, in accordance with the following proclamation:

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A PROCLAMATION.

The centennial anniversary of the day on which the people of the United States declared their right to a separate and equal station among the Powers of the earth seems to demand an exceptional observance.

The founders of the Government at its birth and in its feebleness invoked the blessings and the protection of a Divine Providence, and the thirteen colonies and three millions of people have expanded into a nation of strength and numbers commanding the position which then was asserted and for which fervent prayers were then offered.

It seems fitting that on the occurrence of the hundredth anniversary of our existence as a nation a grateful acknowledgment should be made to Almighty God for the protection and the bounties which he has vouchsafed to our beloved country.

I therefore invite the good people of the United States on the approaching Fourth day of July, in addition to the usual observances with which they are accustomed to greet the return of the day, further, in such manner and at such time as in their respective localities and religious associations may be most convenient, to mark its recurrence by some public religious and devout thanksgiving to Almighty God for the blessings which have been bestowed upon us as a nation during the century of our existence, and humbly to invoke a continuance of His favor and of His protection.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this twenty-sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy six, and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundredth.

(SEAL.)

U. S. GRANT.

By the President:
HAMILTON FISH.
Secretary of State.

Edward S. Peck presided and opened the exercises by reading the Psalm of Thanksgiving contained in the 18th chapter of 1st Chronicles; after which appropriate prayer and addresses were made.

At ten o'clock A. M. the people assembled at the grove adjoining the village, where the exercises were continued under the following programme:

PROGRAMME.

Prayer by Rev. F. E. Freeman.
Address by the President, J. W. Buker.
Singing, "Old Hundred."
Reading the Declaration of Independence, by W. C. Lipscomb, Jr.
Original Poem, by S. G. Arnold.
Singing, "Hail Columbia."
Address by H. L. Piper.
Singing, "The Red, White, and Blue."
Reading of the Annals of Mt. Pleasant, by H. C. Harmon.

SENTIMENTS.

1. The President of the United States—S. G. Arnold.
2. The Army—L. S. Emory.
Singing, "Glory Hallelujah."
3. The United States Navy—J. S. Delano.
4. The Press—A. W. Eaton.
5. Our Flag—E. S. Peck.
Singing, "The Star-Spangled Banner."
6. The American Congress—Hon. O. D. Conger.
7. The Original Thirteen States—Hon. J. R. Tarbox.
8. The Union—T. J. Lasier.
Singing, "America."
9. The School-House—J. S Brown.
10. The Fathers of '76—Hon. O. D. Conger.
11. The Pulpit—Rev. F. E. Freeman.
Singing, "Hold the Fort."
12. Mount Pleasant—H. C. Harmon.
13. The First Resident—A. L. Sturtevant.
Singing, "Home, Sweet Home."
Benediction.

President, J. W. Buker; Vice Presidents, E. S. Peck, H. C. Harmon, S. G. Arnold, F. Mattingly, John B. Bloss; Secretary, Thomas J, Lasier.

Committee of Arrangements—S. G. Arnold, L. S. Emery, J. S. Delano, H. C. Harmon, T. J. Lasier, P. H. Folsom, B. P. Davis.

The exercises of the day were closed by an evening festival of the young people at the hall, under the auspices of the Sabbath-school, A. L. Sturtevant, president. After the singing of various national airs, Miss Ella Nichols re-

cited the "Union Forever." Miss Belle Harmon read a Centennial poem, and Miss Aggie Brown and Master Charlie Sturtevant sang respectively the "Star-Spangled Banner" and the "Tax upon Tea." The exercises were closed by a few well-timed and patriotic remarks by B. P. Davis and the singing of "America."

A HUNDRED YEARS.

One hundred busy years! How much they mean!
What mighty revolutions have they seen!
What progress of the arts! What progress of the pen!
What breaking down of wrong! What lifting up of men!

Well may we boast our victories nobly won;
Our rapid progress towards the setting sun;
Our broad domain—its every acre free,
Stretching its giant arms from sea to sea;
Our white-winged commerce o'er the stormy brine;
Our wealth of prairie, forest, farm and mine,
And, more than these—what still the spirit fires,
Those sterling virtues of our noble sires,
Which wedded them to freedom as to life,
In face of frowns and threats and deadly strife,
And held them to their self-imposed decree
To pay no sordid tax on British tea.
They stood as stands the rock upon the shore
When angry waves around it foam and roar;
And, bending not before the tyrant's blow,
Hurled swift defiance back upon the foe.

You know the rest. Their stubborn, plucky will
Brought Concord, Lexington and Bunker-Hill.
It brought stern war; and men with bated breath
Saw the destroyer, red with fire and death,
Stalk through the land to lay the fairest low
And scatter wide the direful seeds of woe
But, "where there is a will there is a way,"
And so there dawned at last, a better day
Patient endurance! Ah! it conquers still!
It forms the climax of a manly will!
It foiled the evil purposes designed
And gave a new born Nation to mankind.
Nay, more! unknown it held at its command
These hundred years of progress in its hand:
These years of toil and growth, all richly fraught
With schools and churches, and unfettered thought—
A precious gift, a princely, royal dower,
Of onward progress and advancing power!

The age is "fast" and whatsoever lingers
Is rudely thrust aside by nimbler fingers.
Life's panorama of eventful range
Glitters with visions of amazing change.

Our mothers with the needle slowly wrought,
Chatting with children or absorbed in thought:
Patient, persistent, grave perhaps, or gay,
Obedient to their needs they stitched away,
And our good households, in those olden days,
Attest the merits of their faithful ways.

But, times have changed. Behold another scene!
List to the pacing click of that machine!
Follow the needle—if, perchance, the eye
Can catch its motions as the stitches fly.
See how the stuff moves on all neatly sewed,
Treading its wonted way as on a road,
Corded, or hemmed, or gathered, as you please.
And moving forward with surpassing ease,
Its stitch the very magic of our times,
More deftly woven than our magic rhymes.

Those homely methods could not always last;
The "good old times" must drop into the past.
The nimble knitting on a wintry night,
Around the blazing fire, cheerful and bright;
The twirling spindle, and the maiden's tread,
As, with a whirl, she drew the tiny thread;
The beam and shuttle of the household loom—
Which had its corner or its special room;
The flax and distaff of the "little wheel;"
The winding into knots upon the reel;
Are household pictures faded and gone by;
And, in their place a thousand spindles ply,
A thousand looms, moved by some mountain stream
Or, ready, busy, many-handed steam.

Steam is our hand-maid, faithful, deft, and strong,
That pushes fast the moving world along.
It speeds the shuttle, spins the spindle round;
Wheels monstrous burdens o'er the graded ground;
Brings iron from the mine, and coal and lead;
Lifts rocks and metals from their mountain bed;
Rolls out our iron, beats the pond'rous trip;
Hammers and saws and sails the fastest ship;
Stitches our garments, ploughs for unsown seed,
And prints the Daily Paper which we read.

The Daily Paper, now in every hand,
Sheds light and knowledge through the teeming land
And we behold the PRESS a ruling power,
Grown stronger by the change of every hour.

The wooden Ramage working without stint,
For our good sires a hundred sheets might print
Within the hour. Long since it passed away.
A thing most useful, it has had its day.
Oh, FRANKLIN! couldst thou from thy sleep arise!
What thrilling wonder! what enwrapped surprise!
Thy sympathetic breast would surely know
While gazing on a mammoth working HOE!
Heavy and strong, and moving with a will,
It whirls and rattles like a cotton-mill,
And many a snowy *bank* piled hugely high,
And many a hand is taxed for its supply:
And, Oh! Amazing! it with ease completes
Within the hour, full twenty thousand sheets.

So, too, of old, the painter slowly wrought.
With his good eye the face or scene he caught,
And then with color, brush, and master skill
Proceeded patiently his sketch to fill.
Few walls were garnished then with works of art;
Few pictures graven—save upon the heart.
But, since DAGUERRE, no painter like the sun;
Who takes our portraits almost on the run:
Whose brush of rays with color overflows
And every ardent look a picture shows.
To rich and poor he gives his genial ray,
And gems for all are radiant every day.

Companions, lovers, parents, children, all;
The poor man's Cottage and the rich man's Hall,
Attest the largeness of the painter's will,
And share the bounties of his matchless skill.

In "seventy-six," if Post-man did not fail,
Letters went slowly in the weekly mail;
And, if demands more urgent chanced to press
Relays of horses proved a fleet express.
Behold what change! With rail and steam combined
And daily mails, the news would lag behind
But for those magic wires which stretch afar.
On which the lightning drives his unseen car.
His flying coursers sweep along their way,
O'er land and sea, by darkness and by day,
Now, down beneath the ocean's surging tide,
On the long cable through the deep they ride.
Now, mounting on the endless net of wires,
On, on, with speed that never flags or tires,
Counting all time and distance as but naught,
Leaping or flying, as a flash or thought.
To bring from every land subdued by man,
From England, Egypt, China and Japan,
The news, like manna, gathered fresh and sweet
To be reported in the daily sheet.

The fastest travel in the olden age
Was in the rocking, bounding, four-horse stage,
Which, swinging, jolting, as it rolled along
Behind its heavy horses, slow and strong,
Full often pausing to obtain the mail
Or fresher horses, as the worn ones fail,
Could, in its steady tread of night and day
Scarce make its hundred miles of weary way.
The driver was a man of conscious power,
Of business air and prompt to day and hour,
Who answered questions and would oft expand
On title deeds and ownership of land,
Or village gossip, tales and local lore——
And, Oh! the bundles, messages and notes he bore!
Missiles of business, love, and strange embraces;
Of shows and auctions, trainings and the races:
And when his mellow horn blew loud and clear
To sound a warning that the stage was near,
A crowd of gossips, thus informed before,
Would meet in knots around the tavern door,
To get their papers, notes or other dues,
Or see the team, or hear or tell the news.
He, like a royal sovereign, had his throne,
From which he ruled his princely realm alone;
And, when he gathered up his double reins,
That magic power that governs and restrains,
No Emperor, with high, imperial will,
Could wield his stately power with better skill.
His watchful subjects, mindful of his way,
Bent all their humors to his fitful sway,
And if, perchance, in aught they seemed to lack,
The long lash quivered with a thundering crack,
While every muscle trembled at the sound,
And every hoof was ready to rebound.

Those days have gone. The stage has passed away:
And, in its place, the level, iron way
Bears on its track the stream of busy life
That sweeps with currents strong as human strife.
The iron horse with glowing embers fed,
Paces, impatient on his graded bed
And breathing smoke and sparks of glowing fire

Suggests a demon or some monster dire.
But, kindly treated, on his trusty road,
No ox is half so patient of his load.
With scores of laden cars bound to his train
He bears our freight and travel o'er the main,
Laughs at all toil and, with herculean power,
Wheels off his load at sixty miles an hour.

In morals, too, the ever waging strife
Bears hard upon the hoary wrongs of life.—
Strange! that our sires who pledged their all to be
From every foreign power so nobly free,
Should not have spurned the coffle and the chain
And banished slavery from their wide domain!
But, no: alas! For twenty shameful years
The licensed slave-trade filled the land with tears.
And when, at last, the foreign traffic o'er,
Our ships their stolen freight no longer bore,
Bondmen at home, scourged to reluctant toil,
With sweat and blood bedewed our virgin soil.
Then followed strife which promised no repose
Till the black crime was beaten out by blows.
Fierce, and more fierce, the angry contest raged
Till its wild fury all our STATES engaged;
And slavery, beaten oft, "pushed to the wall,"
Met, on a field of blood, its final fall.

Oh, direful war! destruction in thy hand!
The sword, the torch awaiting thy command!
Engine of Tyrants, since the world began,
To build up Empire and belittle man!
Begetting woes no tongue can ever tell,
And breathing sulphur from the pit of hell!
Thou com'st in mercy when thou com'st to save!
Thou com'st an angel— to redeem the slave!

Within the cycle of these hundred years
What clouds disperse! What darkness disappears!
What explorations science has begun!
What triumph after triumph has it won!
The moon and stars that gem the arch of night
Are caught in shades of photographic light:
The golden sun, that royal fount of day,
That drives his fiery car so far away,
Is not so far but science can evoke
His hidden secrets with the spectroscope;
And the deep sea, far down beneath its waves,
Can hold no more the treasures of its caves.

A hundred years ago where was the West?
The migrant's hopeful home, the settler's rest?
The Alleghanies were our bounding zone;
And all beyond was mystery —unknown.
That mighty valley, now with states bestud,
Through which the Mississippi rolls its flood,
Was tangled woods and wild uncultured lands,
Roamed by fierce beasts and naked, savage bands;
The golden coast, with all its treasures rare;
Its mighty trees; its mountains ribbed and bare;
Its rapid rivers choked with water-falls;
Its gloomy canons with their rocky walls;
Its mines of gold and silver, salt and clay;
Its famous city and unequalled bay;
Its deep Yosemite, encased in stone—
Were in the distant future—blank, unknown.

In seventy-six these homes we hold so dear,
Our own Mt. Pleasant, had no being here.
The Piney-branch went singing on its way

And many a bird, as now, poured forth its lay ;
And sweet arbutus bloomed among the trees
And shed its fragrance on the vernal breeze:
And the great sun looked down with strange delight
On the wide forests stretched beneath his sight—
A lovely Eden in the deep profound!
An Eden—but, no man to till the ground!
No school-house where an empty head could fill :
No Hall for worship, lecture, or quadrille;
No tower among the half-clad, long-armed trees,
With spreading wings to wrestle with the breeze
And teach the waters a new bent of flowing
That Beam might show what he could do by—blowing.

A hundred years ago, just as to-day,
The broa Potomac swept its devious way,
And dear Mount Vernon from its sheltering wood
Looked down, as now, upon the moving flood.
But Washington with all its towers and domes.
Its gilded palaces and humble homes,
Has nestled down upon its river shore
Long since the war for liberty was o'er,
And, far and near, on river, lake and plain,
From sea to sea, in all this grand domain,
Thus cities rise to mark the rolling years,
And thriftful progress everywhere appears.

As through the clouds a gleam of light will play,
And, glinting backward, paint reflected day,
So, through the past, reflected we may see,
Glimpses of what our future years will be.
But glimpses only; for the clouds still hide,
And naught can draw the dusky veil aside.
But who can doubt, if thus the past appears,
Our country's glory in the coming years?
Its happy homes with grace and culture crowned,
Where light, religion, faith and truth abound,
Its teeming millions living more and more
For that great FUTURE lying just before;
And its strong arm stretched out to shield and save
The struggling nations that are true and brave.
So may it be! Its armor ever bright,
Its sword drawn only to maintain the right.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 1876.

ANNALS

OF

MOUNT PLEASANT,

PREPARED BY

H. C. HARMON, B. P. DAVIS, J. B. BLOSS, S. G. ARNOLD, W. C. LIPSCOMB, JR., A. L. STURTEVANT.

MOUNT PLEASANT.

The village of Mount Pleasant, settled and occupied mostly by Government employees, is the outgrowth and result of the law establishing the seat of Government of the United States on the Potomac; and its history is therefore intimately associated with that event. During the war of the revolution and down to the inauguration of the Government under the Constitution on the 4th of March, 1789, the governing power, such as it was, vested in the Continental Congress, which met wherever convenience or necessity dictated. But just after the close of the war, on the 21st of June, 1783, while this body was in session at Philadelphia, it was exposed to the insults and jeers of a riotous mob, which the State authorities failed to control, and which caused the adjournment of Congress to Princeton, N. J., where its sessions were held in the College Hall.

This unpleasant incident created a prejudice against large cities as proper places for the meeting of Congress, and suggested the propriety of buildings for that purpose, located beyond the reach of all such turbulent influences. Accordingly, in the same year, on the 7th of October, Elbridge Gerry offered a resolution that buildings for the use of Congress be located on or near the Delaware River, or on the Potomac River, near Georgetown.

After undergoing some changes, one of which was the erection of buildings at both places, the resolution was adopted, but was rescinded the following Spring, on the 26th of April, 1784.

October 30th, of the same year, Congress met at Trenton, N. J., and the subject was again taken up, but no

definite action was had. The next year, 1785, when Congress was in session in N. Y., the subject was further considered; the prevailing sentiment being in favor of buildings on the Delaware in Penn., immediately across the river from Trenton. But as there was a strong party in favor of the Potomac, nothing definite was done. Two years later, May 10, 1787, Wm. Lee, of Va., moved a resolution that buildings for the use of Congress be erected on the Potomac; but the resolution was lost, N. Y., Va., and Ga. only voting in the affirmative. This appears to have terminated the efforts of the Continental Congress to establish for itself permanent quarters; but it was one of the first subjects that engaged the attention of the Constitutional Congress, which assembled in N. Y. in 1789. On the 5th of September of that year a resolution passed the House of Rep. that the permanent seat of Gov't ought to be established on the Susquehanna River in Pa. In the Senate the resolution was amended by specifically naming Germantown, in Pa., as the place for the future seat of Gov't. The amendment was concurred in by the House, which also made some slight changes in the resolution, which rendered it necessary to send the resolution back to the Senate, where it was lost for want of time.

In the following year, May 31, 1790, a bill was enacted, and became a law on the 16th of July following, locating the seat of Gov't on the Potomac at some place between the mouth of the Eastern Branch and the Connogocheague. This law was amended March 3, 1791, so as to authorize the President to locate a District of 10 miles square, above Hunting Creek, and to include a convenient part of Eastern Branch, and the town of Alexandria, and providing that no public buildings should be erected, otherwise than on the Maryland side of the Potomac River.

In pursuance of this law, a commission, consisting of Thomas Johnson, David Stuart and Daniel Carroll, was appointed to survey the District. On the 15th of April, 1791, they placed the corner stone at Jones Point, just below Alexandria, with public ceremonies, in which the Masonic Order took a leading part.

On the 9th of Sept. following the commissioners informed Maj. L'Enfant, Gen. Washington's surveyor, that they had agreed to call the Federal District the Territory

of Columbia, and the Federal City the City of Washington, and directed him to entitle his map accordingly.

That part of the District which now bears the name of Mt. Pleasant was detached from the patent of Lord Baltimore, long anterior to the Revolution, and appears to have descended through Robert Peter and Eliphas Douglass to Anthony Holmead the great-grand-father of William Holmead, one of the present residents of Mt. Pleasant, and proprietor of quite a large portion of the original estate, lying east of 14th street road. For many years the famous race course was located here, and occupied a large portion of the plateau on which the village now stands.

The track was an exact circle, one mile in extent, and swept around on both sides of where 14th street now is, and between the house of Mr. Mattingly and the old Georgetown road running east and west, then between the college property and the Sherman property. The 14th street road was open only to the race course, the gate of which was at the terminus. The west side of the track must therefore have passed near the Houses of Mr. Sturtevant, Mr. Peck, Mr. Davis, Mr. Simmons, and the two houses of Senator Sherman. It was on this course that the world celebrate race was contested between Sir Henry and Eclipse, in which Eclipse was the victor and made the fastest time then known to the sporting world.

Anthony Holmead had his property re-surveyed April 18, 1795, when it extended across the 7th street road on the east, and over-lapped the boundaries of Georgetown and Washington city on the south and west.

This property, then known as Pleasant Plains, and which now properly falls within the limits of Mount Pleasant, extends to Rock Creek and Piney Branch, embracing, in addition to the village proper, the Rosemount and section of the Rock of Dumbarton property, and the Ingleside, or Gen. Walbridge estate on the west, the Eslin estate on the south, the Holmead estate on the east, and extending to the Hall and Lewis estate on the north.

At the death of Anthony Holmead, in 1802, he bequeathed his property to his two surviving sons, John and Anthony, the eastern portion going to Anthony, and that upon which now stands the larger part of the village

going to John, who died intestate, leaving three children, Matilda, Henry, and William. Matilda and Henry died without issue, leaving William the sole heir. In the meantime the estate had been much diminished by sales, but the part retained was in the immediate vicinity of this village; and the homestead, where Mary Holmead, the widow of William, now resides.

On the 20th of January, 1850, a portion of this property, lying west of 14th street, was conveyed to J. Ross Brown, the famous traveler, who on the 25th of February, 1850, conveyed it to Wm. Selden, who built the house, or a portion of it, now owned and occupied by S. P. Brown, Esq. Mr. Selden was a Virginian, had been Treasurer of the U. S., and at this time was marshal of the U. S. Supreme Court. He occupied the property 10 or 12 years, down to the outbreak of the rebellion, in which his sympathies were with the South, where he owned considerable property. Hence, the war cut off his principal resources, and from this and other causes his estate here became encumbered with various deeds of trust. These deeds were released to S. P. Brown, and on the 30th of May, 1862, the property was conveyed by Selden and wife in fee simple to Mr. Brown, consisting of the buildings and about 73 acres of land lying north of Linnean Hill road, now called Park street, and between the estate of the late Gen. Walbridge and the 14th street roadway.

At the date of purchase by Mr. Brown the property was occupied by the military forces of the Government, the 6th reg't Pa. cav. vols. having quarters at and near the Selden House, with barricades extending as far east as the property now owned by Mr. Exley; and after the second battle of Bull Run Gen. Banks' forces occupied the property also for a short time.

Immediately upon the withdrawal of the military forces from the place, Mr. Brown commenced the improvement of the estate, by enlarging, improving and erecting buildings, and refencing the land and setting out fruit and ornamental trees, and upon removing his family thither, gave it the name of Mount Pleasant. During the entire war a large portion of the property adjacent to 14th street road on either side, and north of Boundary street, was occupied for army purposes, and one of the most extensive and capacious of the buildings was given the name of Mount Pleasant Hospital.

In 1862, the uncertainty which hung over the national contest, had greatly depressed the price of property and the purchase of Mr. Brown was therefore made at a very low price. But immediately after the close of the war, real estate began to recover from its depression and industry and enterprise to resume their accustomed channels. Hence there were frequent inquiries for suburban property; and as these multiplied it occurred to Mr. Brown that he might do good service to the public and to himself by selling off a portion of his farm in lots suitable for suburban residences.

Accordingly, in May 1865,he surveyed and laid out his first sub-division, which contemplated the opening of but one street, which he named Sheridan Avenue. The lots on this avenue and Linnean Hill (now Park street,) were as now located, having a frontage on the south 100 feet; but on the north side of Sheridan avenue they had a frontage of 132 feet and depth of 330 feet, sufficient to make one acre of land in each lot. These lots were offered for sale at public auction in June 1865, but prices not proving satisfactory, one lot only was sold at auction, and four at private sale. The lots sold were those lying between Sheridan avenue and Park street. Washington Tilley, purchased two, Ephraim Wheeler and son two, and Henry Nicholson one.

Thus was inaugurated the movement which has resulted in the building up of the beautiful suburban village of Mount Pleasant. And while S. P. Brown, Esq., is not the oldest or first living resident within the present bounds of Mount Pleasant, he is the first resident of the village proper, and may be justly regarded as the pioneer and founder of the village; although impetus was given and character added to the movement by the purchase and improvement of the property on and near Howard avenue, in 1866–67, by certain parties of which more will be said hereafter.

As brief personal notices of the residents of Mount Pleasant will form a part of these Annals, it may be proper to give here a brief sketch of the founder of the village.

Samuel P. Brown, was born in Hancock county Maine, and for some time was engaged in the survey and exploration of timber land in that state, and in teaching schools;

subsequently he was extensively engaged in the lumber, granite, and ship-building business in Maine, and in the timber trade in Florida. He was a member of the Legislature of Maine, at different times from 1845 to 1859, and in 1860, was a candidate for Congress in the Sixth District. In 1861 he removed to Washington, and was appointed naval agent in April of the same year. In addition to his Mount Pleasant enterprise, he built several elegant and costly residences in the city, and in 1863, projected and built the Metropolitan street Railroad, and was its first president; soon after he was appointed by the President a member of the Levy Court, and upon the creation of the Territorial Government, was appointed a member of the "Board of Public Works," upon which he served as one of its most useful and energetic members.

A few days after this auction sale, lots Nos. 4 and 5, fronting on Park street, were purchased by J. S. Brown, Esq. Mr. Brown commenced to build in the Spring of 1867, but his house was not completed until the Spring of 1868; although it was so far tenable that he moved his family into it on the 7th, of December, 1867.

Mr. Brown is a native of New Hampshire; removed to Washington, D. C., in 1850; and is by profession a solicitor of patents, and is now and has been for several years a member of the board of school trustees of the District of Columbia. He was formally a contributor to the New Haven *Pal adium.*

On the 7th, of July 1865, Issac Bond, then a clerk in the Post Office Department, purchased lot No. 28 lying on the north side of Sheridan avenue. The first house in the new village was built by Mr. Bond upon this lot—a small house 12 feet square of two stories, in which he lived for about a year, and while the Bond house as we now know it was gradually developing its proportions. Mr. Bond was an intelligent and conscientious Quaker, who had the old fashioned Quaker scruples about running in debt, so his main house went up slowly and mainly by his own exertions. He died of consumption in 1872, greatly regretted by his neighbours; his widow sold the property to J. B. Bloss, Esq., in December, 1872, who still owns it. It is now occupied by H. K. Redway, sargent of the County Police.

Mr. Redway is a native of————————, and removed to the District of Columbia in 18 .

Lot No. 6 fronting on Park street, was purchased in July 1865, by W. C Lipscomb, Jr., who built thereon the second house of the village, and moved his family into it on the 25, of April, 1866. Mr. Lipscomb is a native of Georgetown, D. C., and at the time of removal to Mount Pleasant was a clerk in the Sixth Auditors' Office of the Treasury Department; he is now and has been for several years, one of our eminent county school teachers.

The third house was a small house built in 1866, by Ephriam Wheeler, on lot No. 14, and occupied for a while by Mr. Hendrik. Mr. Wheeler subsequently enlarged his home and occupied it several years with his family, and in 1873, sold the property to Dr. John H. Darrell, who further enlarged and improved the buildings. Dr. Darrell, the present owner is a native of Maryland; was in his youth a page in the House of Representatives, and is now by profession a Doctor of Dentistry.

After the sale of lots on Park street, and the one purchase by Mr. Bond, on Sheridan avenue, no further sales were effected for about a year. In the Summer of 1866, a large number of gentlemen, mainly clerks in the Government employ, held a series ot consultations with the view of acting together in the purchase of property tor making themselves homes in the suburbs of Washington. At first the number was about thirty, and through their committee and agents they examined all the eligible positions then in the market, and among others the property of Mr. Brown. They found Mr. Brown disposed to forward their object and they made proposals to him, which he accepted; but from various causes only ten out of the thirty adhered to their purpose.

It was to accommodate the views of their new purchasesr that Mr. Brown made his second sub-division, which added Howard avenue, Brown street, Center street, Meridian avenue, and Oak street to the original plat. By this action several important charges were made.

Sheridan avenue which was originally 60 feet wide, was narrowed to 45 feet; and the acre lots on the north side were reduced to half acre lots, extending from Sheridan to Howard avenues. Acre lots with the same frontage 132 feet, were laid out on the north side of Howard avenue, and were to extend through to Meridian avenue; then the opening of Brown street brought into favorable

notice a tier of lots running through to Piney Branch road, on which was a growth of oak trees, making them particularly desirable for building purposes.

These ten new purchasers were to have their lots at the rate of $650. per acre; and they located their lots on the newly opened streets, as follows:

James S. Delano, Lots Nos. 19–20, one acre on the north west corner of Howard avenue and Brown street; J. W. Buker, two acres. Lot No. 38 next to Mr. Delano's, north extending from Brown street to Piney Branch Road: S. H. Goodman, one acre Lot, No. 39 north of Mr. Burker, between the same street and road.

E. S. Turner, Nos. 36–37, two acres, fronting 132 feet each on Howard avenue, and extending along Brown street to Meridian avenue; E. A. Pratt, No. 35, one acre, 132 feet on Howard avenue, next east to Mr. Turner; P. H. Folsom, one Lot No. 34, next east of Mr. Pratt, but not quite so wide, a few feet having been taken off for the opening of Center street, along which it extended to Meridian avenue. Mr. Folsom was not in fact one of the original purchasers, having made his contract at a later date and at an advanced price; then going east and passing the lot now owned by Dr. Breed, one Lot No. 32, on the same side of Howard avenue, taken by B. P. Davis; and one Lot No. 31, next east of Mr. Davis taken by A. L. Sturtevant; then crossing to the other side of Howard avenue, one of the half acre Lots No. 24, extending through to Sheridan avenue taken by T. M. Exley, and another No. 27, next west of Mr. Bond, taken by H. Baldwin.

The deeds to these parties were made on or about July 23, 1866, and Mr. Delano, Mr. Turner, Mr. Pratt, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Sturtevant proceeded at once to build, but owing to the failure and flight of Mr. Moran, the builder, there was some embarrassment and delay.

A. L. Sturtevant was the first to complete and occupy his house; moving into it with his family on the 28th of December, 1866. Mr. Sturtevant is a native of New Hampshire, and removed from Mass., to Washington in 1861, and entered into the employ of the United States in the Treasury Department, where he yet remains; having charge of the Stationery and Printing Division of the Department.

James S. Delano, came next in order, having complet-

ed his house and taken possession of it with his family on the 9th of January, 1867. Mr. Delano is a native of Vermont, removed to Illinois in early life and came to the City of Washington in 1862; and entered the Treasury Department where he now remains, in charge of one of the principal Divisions of the Second Comptrollers Office.

B. P. Davis followed Mr. Delano, having completed and moved into his house on the 26th, of the same month. Mr. Davis subsequently sold the property to Wm, F. Pray, and purchased in May 1872, Lots Nos. 1 and 10 in Block No. 1, lying on the west side of Pine street. and extending from Park street to Grant street, and built thereon in the Summer of 1874, where he still resides. Mr. Davis is a native of Massachusetts; was in the Union Army during the early part of the rebellion; Removed to the City of Washington in 1863, and entered the Fourth Auditor's Office of the Treasury Department, where he now remains in charge of one of the principal divisions of that office; and at different times held the position of county school commissioner, trustee and superintendent of public schools.

S. E. Turner and Captain Pratt, finished their houses and moved into them the Spring following; the same year Mr. Turner, sold his house and two lots to John W. Green, who occupied them until 1871, when he sold to Messrs Welker & Hagerty, the present owners; the property is now occupied by Thomas J. Lasier, a clerk in the Navy Department. Mr. Lasier is a native of Illinois, and by profession a Civil Engineer, although for several years he edited the Lake Superior *Miner* in Michigan, and the Claremont *Eagle* in New Haven; he removed to Mount Pleasant in 1875.

In 1870 the house and lot of Captain Pratt, was sold to A. W. Eaton, the present owner and occupant. Mr. Eaton is a native of Herkimer county N. Y., and is by profession a Journalist; for many years he was the proprietor and editor of the Mohawk *Courier*, afterwards merged in the *Journal* and *Courier*, and now printed at Little Falls, N. Y., and since his removal to Washington, has been a contributor to the *County Gentlemen* He came to Washington at the request of Gen. Spinner in 1862, and removed to Mount Pleasant in April, 1870; he was for nearly fourteen years in the Office of the United States Treasurer; and in charge of one of the Divisions of that Office. Prior to

coming to Washington, he was also Treasurer of the County of Herkimer, N. Y.

Thomas M Exley appears to be the next builder, having built and moved his family to Mount Pleasant in June, 1867; his original lot has been enlarged by the purchase of one half of Lot No. 25. Mr. Exley was formely a carpenter and house builder by trade, and built his own house at Mount Pleasant; he is a native of New Hampshire, entered the Union Army at the outbreak of the Rebellion from Mass., upon the close of the war entered the Paymaster General's Office, where he now remains, having charge of one of the principal Divisions of that Office

Dr. Daniel Breed appears to have been the next purchaser and builder, having purchased lot No. 33 on the N. E. corner of Howard avenue and Centre street, with three large additional lots in the rear, making in all about five acres. He also bought the rear third of lot 32 of Mr. Davis, and during the Summer of 1867 erected his buildings and moved into his house on the 14th of September following. Dr. Breed is a native of New Hampshire, and came to the District several years before the war. During the war he was connected with the Medical Department of the Army in the District, and is now a practicing Solicitor of Patents.

The next purchase was made on the 6th of April, 1867, by S. G. Arnold and Harry C. Harmon, of lot No. 23 on the southside of Howard avenue, and extending through to Sheridan avenue. Mr. Arnold taking the Westerly and Mr. Harmon the Easterly half of the lot, each with a frontage of 66 feet and a depth of 180 feet.

John B. Bloss was the next purchaser and builder, having bought lot No. 30, which he now occupies, on the 15th of April, 1867. He built his house in the summer of 1867, and moved into it in the following September. Mr. Bloss has since purchased the Bond lot and several other lots in the village. He is a native of New York, removed to the District from Detroit, Michigan, in 1854, and for many years was employed in the General Land Office, and afterwards had charge of the Railroad Division in the Interior Department. He is now a practicing Land Agent and Attorney.

During the same year General Eaton, Paymaster in the United States Army, purchased one of the lots, No. 11,

originally purchased by Washington Tilley, and erected thereon the house now owned and occupied by Samuel S. Simmons. Mr. Simmons is a native of Alexandria, Virginia, but for many years, and prior to the purchase of his suburban residence at Mount Pleasant, was in successful business operations in the City of Washington.

The next purchaser and builder was Lyman S. Emory, who purchased lot No. 3 on Park street, September 17, 1867, built and moved into his house on the 25th of June, 1868. Mr. Emory is a native of New Hampshire, and at the outbreak of the rebellion entered the Union Army. In 1864 removed to Washington and entered the civil service of the Government in the Internal Revenue Bureau, where he now remains, and for some time having had charge of one of the sub-divisions of that office.

S. G. Arnold followed next in order, having built his house in the Summer of 1868, and occupied it with his family in the early part of September of that year. Mr. Arnold is a native of New York, and removed to the City of Washington in the Spring of 1863, when he was appointed a clerk in the Second Auditor's Office. He was subsequently transferred to the Internal Revenue Bureau, where he now remains. Mr. Arnold was, in early life, a school teacher and druggist, but afterwards became a journalist of large experience, having edited and founded several newspapers. He founded and edited the Brooklyn *Daily News*, the Newark *Morning Post*, and the Trenton *Daily News*, and, at different times, edited the Westchester *Spy*, the Brooklyn *Advocate*, the Highland *Democrat*, Brooklyn *Eagle*, Trenton *Emporium* and Syracuse *Daily Chronicle*, and the *Toledo Blade*. Since 1865 has been the Washington correspondent of the last named paper, and contributor to various magazines.

The next builder was H. C. Harmon, who completed and moved into his house on the 1st of May, 1869. Mr. Harmon is a native of New Hampshire, and, by profession, a lawyer. He was one of the original Free-State party that went to Kansas, from Massachusetts, in 1854, to redeem that Territory from the foils of the pro-slavery men—removed to Washington in 1862, and entered the Second Auditor's Office, where he has since been in charge of the Law and Prosecuting Branch of that office.

The next house was built by S. H. Goodman, upon his

original purchase on Brown street, who completed and occupied the same on the 15th of December, 1870. Mr. Goodman is a native of Massachusetts, and removed to Washington from Chicago in 1862 and to Mount Pleasant in 1867. In 1862 he entered the Treasury Department, where he now remains in charge of one of the Sub-Divisions of the Internal Revenue Bureau.

Next follows Edward S. Peck, who purchased the east half of Lot No. 25, on Howard avenue, in 1871, and built and moved into his house on the 26th of September, 1871. Mr. Peck is a native of New York, and served in the Union Army as Adjutant of the 100th Regiment, New York Volunteers. He removed to Washington in 1865 and entered the Office of Controller of the Currency of the Treasury, where he now remains.

During the same year W R. Murphy purchased a portion of lot No. 32 of Mr. Davis and built thereon the house now owned and occupied by Jerome F. Johnson. Mr. Johnson is a native of Michigan, served three years in the 2d Wis. Vol.; wounded at Gettysburg, and on his discharge from the hospital settled in Washington, and is the owner of the large temperance grocery store in Masonic Temple.

Also, during this year, S. P. Brown erected three houses, one on Piney Branch road, immediately opposite his own residence, and the others on Oak street and Laurel avenue. The house on Piney Branch road is occupied by J. W. Buker, who removed from Illinois to Washington in 1863, and to Mount Pleasant in 1867. Mr. Buker is a native of Maine, and in 1870 was appointed trustee of the county schools, was afterwards appointed collector of taxes, and in 1873 was appointed by President Grant as a member of the Legislative Council.

The house on Laurel avenue was purchased in December, 1874, by James Hudson, who now owns and occupies it. This property has been enlarged, improved and adorned, so that it is now one of the most elegant places in the village. Mr. Hudson is an Englishman by birth, but came to New York State in early life, where he learned the trade of painter. He came to Washington in 1864, where he has since been in successful business as a house and fancy painter.

The other is occupied by Charles Earle, also an English-

man. Mr. Earle was formerly connected with the British Legations, with Sir Frederick Bruce—came to Washington in April, 1865, where he has since remained, and for several years has been engaged in the merchant-commission trade. He removed to Mount Pleasant in June 1874.

Later in the same year, 1871, B. D. Fabyan purchased 15,444 square feet on the northwest corner of Park and Fourteenth streets, and built thereon a store and dwelling house, since destroyed by fire. The store was rebuilt in 1875, and is now occupied by Richard Graham, formerly a merchant in Virginia.

In the Spring of 1873, P. H. Folsom commenced building on his lot, No. 34, and completed and moved into his house on the 1st of July following. Mr. Folsom is a native of Rhode Island, and removed to the City of Washington, during the early part of the war. He was afterwards appointed to a position in the Treasury Department, where he now remains, in charge of the Book-keeper's Division of the Fourth Auditor's Office.

Next followed, in rapid succession, the houses of C. L. Clark, on a portion of Lot No. 34. George A. Bartlett and Clarence F. Cobb, on Lot No. 16, originally purchased in 1865 by Henry Nicholson, and known as the Cherry Tree Lot, S. E. Thomasen and Gen. F. E. Foster.

Mr. Clark is an Englishman by birth, but came to this country in early youth. He is a carpenter and house builder by trade, and has built several of the houses at Mount Pleasant. At the outbreak of the Rebellion Mr. Clark entered the Union Army, where he served until the expiration of his term of service and removed to Mount Pleasant in 1873.

Mr. Bartlett is a native of New Hampshire and upon the outbreak of the Rebellion entered the Union Army. Upon the close of the war he entered the Paymaster General's Office, and subsequently the Treasury Department, where he now is, in the Mail Division of the Secretary's Office. His house is built on the westerly half of lot 16.

Mr. Cobb is a native of Maryland, and at the beginning of the rebellion entered the Union Army Upon leaving the army he entered the Paymaster General's Office, where he yet remains. His house is built on the easterly half of lot 16.

The house built by Mr. Thomason, on the easterly half

of lot 17 is now owned and occupied by William J. Ketcham. Mr. Ketcham is a native of New York and removed to the District of Columbia in 1857. He was appointed in the Sixth Auditor's Office of the Treasury Department in 1863, where he now remains.

Gen. Foster, who was a journalist by profession, was an officer in the Union Army, and in later life was in charge of one of the Divisions of the Pension Office. The property is now owned by his widow, and occupied by Clinton Rice, a lawyer from New York.

Subsequently, Edward N. Houghton, purchased lots 73, 74, 75 and 76 on Laurel avenue, and, in the Winter and Spring of 1875, improved them by the erection of buildings, moving into his house on the 1st of July following. The cottage of Mr. Houghton is a very attractive one, and adds greatly to the beauty of the village. Mr. Houghton is a native of Vermont and removed to Washington from New York in 1861 and for a while was a clerk in the Interior Department. He is now a solicitor of claims.

Later, in the same year, W. D. Wright purchased the easterly half of lot 40, on Brown street, upon which he has since built a house, which he now occupies; Mr. Wright is a native of Georgia, came to the District in 1872, and has since been employed in the United States Signal Office.

The school-house on Oak street, since converted into a dwelling, and owned by Dr. Breed, was built in 1869, and opened with about thirty scholars in September of that year, with Miss Lizzie Arnold as teacher, and B. P. Davis as trustee.

Our record, thus far, has been confined to the original purchase of land by S. P. Brown, but in the mean time lots had been purchased and improved north of Howard avenue and west of Fourteenth street, formerly owned and occupied by Thomas J. Quinter, who built his house in 1862. Mr. Quinter is a native of Philadelphia, Pa., and came to the District in 1839. He still occupies a portion of his property, which was formerly a part of the Holmead estate, and inherited by his wife one of the Holmead heirs.

John Eggleston purchased two acres in 1861, and built and occupied in 1869. Mr. Eggleston is a native of Baltimore, but came to the District in 1843, and is well known as one of the principel butchers and market dealers of the city.

Abram Elkins, jr., then a clerk in the Treasury Department, bought one acre in 1867, and built and occupied in 1868. He has since removed.

Samuel W. Estern, a native of Maryland, purchased an acre in 1872, and occupied the same in that year. He has since further improved the property by the erection of a floral or hot-house.

In the year 1867 the tract of land, originally a part of the Holmead estate, lying between Fourteenth street and Pierce estate, on the east and west, and Park street and Columbian College property, on the north and south, was purchased by Senator John Sherman and his brother, Gen. William T. Sherman, and by them laid out in village lots. Maj. S. Willard Saxton soon after purchased lots 17, 18 and 19, on Kenesaw avenue, improved and built upon the same, and moved into his house in November, 1869. Maj. Saxton is a native of Massachusetts, and, during the war, an officer in the Union Army. He removed to the District in 1866, and has since been in the employ of the Treasury Department, having charge of one of the Sub-Division of the Office of the First Comptroller.

In 1875, J. R. Hertford purchased lots 30 and 31, fronting on Park street, on this new acquisition, improved the same by the erection of handsome buildings, and moved into his house in April, 1876. Mr. Hertford is a native of England, and removed to the District in 1861, where he has since been in the Office of the United States Treasury, and as one of the committee superintending the destruction of United States currency and bonds.

Senator Sherman has also nearly completed two cottage houses on this property, lying immediately south of Maj. Saxton's property and fronting on Kenesaw avenue.

During the year 1871 the tract of land belonging to the Joshua Pierce estate, and lying south of Park street and west of the Sherman property, passed into the possession of S. P. Brown, who laid out the same in blocks and lots and offered them for sale in January 1872. This property is also a part of the original Pleasant Plains or Holmead estate, and quite a large portion of it has since fallen into the hands of James Robbins and Moses Kelly, of the City of Washington. The first lot sold was for the site of the buildings now occupied by the Mount Pleasant public schools. The school-house, built in 1869, had become too small for the

wants of the village, and, through the exertions of B. P. Davis, a larger one was erected and dedicated with public ceremonies in the Spring of 1872. Hon. Henry D. Cooke, Governor of the District, Hon. John Eaton, Commissioner of Education and other distinguished persons being present and participating in the exercises. Mrs. Julia E. York was appointed principal teacher in 1871. Miss Kate Sanford was assistant teacher from September, 1871, until June 30, 1872. Miss Mandana Brown from June, 1872 to June, 1875 and re-appointed in 1876. Miss Ellen Emory was appointed in June, 1872. Miss Delia Tingle in 1873, and Miss Carrie Spalding in 1875. Miss Brown, Miss Emory, Miss Tingle, with the principal, Mrs. York, constitute the present corps of teachers, and the number of scholars has increased to over two hundred and fifty.

The second purchase was made by B. P. Davis, of Lots Nos. 1–10, of which mention has heretofore been made. Then followed the purchase of Lot No 2, block 4, on Park street, and erection of a house, in 1873, by George S. Emory. This property is now occupied by F. S. Nichols, a native of Maine, but who removed to the District in 1864, and to Mount Pleasant in 1874. Mr. Nichols has been for several years, and is now, employed in the Register's Office of the Treasury Department.

The same year H. C. Watson purchased lot 2, block 1, on Park street, and built and moved into his house immediately thereafter. Mr. Watson is an Englishman by birth, came to this country in 1860 and immediately entered the regular army, where he served until wounded at the second battle of Bull Run, when he was brought to Washington, where he resided until his removal to Mount Pleasant in 1873.

In October of the same year H. H. Parmenter, purchased the easterly half of Lot No. 4, and Joseph C. Lewis the westerly half and a part of lot 7, fronting on Park street. Mr. Parmenter built and moved into his house in April, 1875. He is a native of Massachusetts, and upon the outbreak of the Rebellion entered the Union Army. Upon the close of the war and his discharge from service he entered the Office of the Quarter Master General, where he now remains.

Mr. Lewis completed his house and occupied it in October, 1875. He is a native of Virginia, and, during the

early part of the war served in the Union Army, and afterwards in the Navy as assistant engineer. Since the war he has been, and now is, in the Office of the Third Auditor of the Treasury

Falling within the limits of Mount Pleasant, as it is now known, and being a part of the original Holmead estate and Pleasant Plains, with which we are now dealing, comes also the estate of the oldest inhabitant, James Eslin, now in the eighty-fourth year of his age, who purchased 40 acres nearly half a century ago. Mr. Eslin is a native of Prince George County, Maryland, and, during olden times, kept a public house, cock-pit and sporting grounds, where he now lives, which, for many years, was the resort of sporting men, and, even, public functionaries. His son, Columbus Eslin, now owns and occupies a portion of the estate, immediately west of the Piney Branch road, and his son-in-law, Charles A. Stewart, owns and occupies a fine residence, just west of the Eslin Homestead. His daughter, Mary Holmead and her son, William Holmead, own and occupy the old Holmead homestead, built about 1740, with about 60 acres of land, being the easterly limits of Mount Pleasant. The son, William was born here, and is the proprietor of the grocery store located on this property.

Adjoining, and next to the Fourteenth street road, is the estate of Francis Mattingly, consisting of about 18 acres. Mr. Mattingly, is one of the substantial and highly respected citizens of the village, was born in Maryland, but in early life removed to Washington, where he was, for many years, successfully engaged in the manufacture and sale of hats. He re-built his house and moved to Mount Pleasant in 1866. His son, William F., one of the distinguished members of the Washington Bar, has recently purchased about 66,000 feet of land south of his father's estate and east of Fourteenth street, being a part of the original Holmead property.

Then west of and adjoining the property of S. P. Brown and the Piney Branch road, lies the estate of the late Gen. Walbridge, with its beautiful residence and grounds, known as Ingleside. This is the largest single estate of the Lord Baltimore and Holmead property, and for several years, and until his death, was owned and occupied as a suburban residence by Gen. Walbridge, a marked and distinguished citizen and member of Congress from the State of New York.

The estate is now owned and occupied by his step-daughter, who recently married Col. George B. Corkhill, late an officer in the Union Army, and now editor and proprietor of the Washington *Daily Chronicle.*

Next, west and lying between this estate and Rock Creek, is the elegant Summer residence and estate of Robert C. Fox, known from the earliest history of Pleasant Plains as Rosemount, and Rock of Dunbarton estate, consisting of about 17 acres. Mr. Fox is a native of Virginia, came to Washington in 1855, and, for several years was connected with the Columbian College, as tutor in Greek and Latin. He purchased Rosemount in 1872, and is now one of the leading real estate brokers of the District of Columbia.

In the Winter of 1867 and 1868 the little community, at Mount Pleasant, finding themselves without any easy communication with the city, and virtually separated from all their former associations, began to feel the necessity of promoting social intercourse and enjoyment in their own neighborhood. Mr. S. N. Goodman and his unmarried sister, Miss Harriet E. Goodman were then residing in a part of Mr. Davis' house, and Miss Goodman suggested and organized a Bible class, which met in their rooms, and was generally attended by the families then resident at Mount Pleasant, Mr. Davis taking the lead of the class. Miss Goodman, also, suggested the propriety of some regular social entertainment, and her thought resulted in a consultation which ended in the organization of a series of social parties, which rotated through the neighborhood on stated evenings, with music and dancing and such plain refreshments as could be served without too much ceremony. These parties were attended by nearly all the residents, and were so genial and so promotive of unity and good feeling as to be remembered among the brightest spots that marked the progress of the new village.

The school-house, built on Oak street in the Summer of 1869, soon became the focus for all the interests of the place, and was kept hot with consultations and public meetings. In the Winter of 1869 and 1870 an interesting series of meetings was held there to urge, on the attention, of Congress the change in the District Government, which was then being agitated. These meetings called into play the business abilities of those who had hitherto only known each other in social relations; and, while they had the effect, through their committees, to aid largely in shaping

the organizing act then before Congress, they, also had the more important effect of inspiring a desire for intellectual communion; and, when the meetings were about to be discontinued, it was proposed to organize a society for intellectual exercise and improvement. The suggestion was acted on at once, and, after a few informal meetings in September, 1870, a constitution was adopted, and the Mount Pleasant Assembly instituted with L. S. Emery for its president, and Dr. Daniel Breed for its secretary. The society was a great success from the first and for several years every house holder on Howard avenue and the greater part of those on Park street were accustomed to participate in its proceedings. It fearlessly discussed all questions, grave or gay, political or religious, historic or scientific, and put the American Congress to shame by its more frequent and tenacious discussions on questions of order.

The assembly was the center of every other public movement, it brought out and exposed the qualities of every member, united them together in friendly intercourse, and in Scriptural phrase, caused them to see "eye to eye." The religious meetings; the Sunday Schools; the street improvements; the side-walks; the omnibus company; the temperance division; and the union hall company, were mainly the outgrowth of this association.

It was the common medium of exchange for everything relating to improvement, and if there is any good in our village over and above others of the same kind, it is to be attributed to the advantages derived from the weekly meetings of this association.

The Sunday School which has been such a fountain of joy to the neighborhood had its origin in a consultation among those who were in the habit of working together in this "Assembly." It was organized on the 27th of June, 1870; the initiatory action resting largely on B. P. Davis, it met in the little school house. L. S. Emery was chosen its first superintendent, A. L. Sturtervant its present superintendent, was chosen in 1873, and the school under his management has continued to enlist the warm approval and hearty co-operation of every family in the village.

The Religious Meetings began soon after the formation of the Sunday School, and both have been continued ever since. The Sunday preaching was introduced by J. S. Brown who invited Rev. J. W Chickering, and circulated a subscription to meet the necessary expense.

The Omnibus Company was organized at a public meeting in 1871, with L. S. Emery, as president, and S. H. Goodman, as treasurer; it has now been in operation five years under the same officers and Board of Directors.

The colored Sunday School was organized in 1871, mainly through the energy of W. R. Murphy, who so long had charge of it; since his removal from the village it has found an equally faithful and efficient guardian in Edward S. Peck, and is one of the institutions of which we may be justly proud.

The Christian Association had its origin at a public meeting held at the school house, on the 14th of March, 1872, after some preliminary consultation in which J. S. Delano took a leading part; it was an attempt to embody the christian element of the neighborhood into an association, for more effective christian work. Edward S. Peck was its first president, and Lizzie S. Arnold its first secretary.

The Union Hall Company organized with the Christian Association in 1874; the first ambition was for a church, but finding a more liberal co-operation in the project for a public hall, that scheme was adopted; and resulted in the erection of the present village hall; on E. ½ Lot No. 26, through the agency of a stock company with A. L. Sturtevant president, John B. Bloss, treasurer, and P. H. Folsom, secretary In the Spring of 1875, the Mount Pleasant Division Sons of Temperance was organized, about the same time as the Union Hall Association, and at one time embraced nearly every person in the village. Its first presiding officer was H. C. Harmon, and it is still in a flourishing condition.

In the Spring of 1875, a most entertaining and successful festival was held under the auspices of this organization; the proceeds thereof being subsequently invested in the Union Hall, and thereby largely promoting the success of the Union Hall enterprise.

It would not be a very material deviation from the truth to say that ten years ago the suburban village proper was "without a habitation and a name."

"To-day, on this 4th of July, 1876; the 100th anniversary of our National Independence, we present it to you in accordance with the suggestions of the President's Proclamation not only with a *name* and with *several habitations*, but with such evidences of growth, and such materials for history, as these unpretending memorials would seem to imply."

MOUNT PLEASANT,

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OF THE

FOURTH OF JULY

1876,

WITH ANNALS,

PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT OF CONGRESS AND THE PROCLAMATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT.

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